

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Emergency Order No. 1-DC-H-03-17

Issued at Sitka, Thursday, December 31, 2016

Effective 12:01 a.m. Sunday,  
Date: January 1, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday,  
December 31, 2017. Unless superseded by  
subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the sport Dungeness crab fishery in the Yakutat Area marine waters.

### REGULATION:

Under this emergency order the provision 5 AAC 47.021(b)(4) is added. The following provision is effective from 12:01 a.m. Sunday, January 1 through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2017.

#### **5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.**

(b) in the Yakutat vicinity;

(4) in all waters of Alaska between the longitude of Cape Suckling ( $144^{\circ}$  W. long.) and a line projected SW ( $225^{\circ}$ ) seaward from the westernmost tip of Cape Fairweather at  $58^{\circ}$  47.89' N. lat. and  $137^{\circ}$  56.68' W. long., sport fishing for Dungeness crab is closed.

Sam Cotten  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Robert Chadwick  
Regional Management Coordinator  
Division of Sport Fish

### JUSTIFICATION:

Surveys conducted by the Department indicate that the Dungeness crab stock in the Yakutat Area is not rebuilding following the closure of the commercial fishery in 2000. Estimates of sport Dungeness crab harvest prior to 2005 indicated a declining trend in the Yakutat Area Dungeness crab stock. The Dungeness crab sport fishery in the Yakutat vicinity has been closed each year since 2005 by emergency order. Because all indications suggest that the stock has not achieved levels to allow harvest, the sport fishery will continue to be closed in 2017.

### DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270.